



*Office of the United States Attorney*  
*District of Arizona*  
**José de Jesus Rivera**

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 4, 2000**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
(602) 514-7561

### DEADBEAT DAD LOSES AT TRIAL

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- **THOMAS P. LONG**, 45, of Glendale, Arizona, is the first person to be tried and convicted by a federal jury for Willful Failure to Pay child Support in the District of Arizona. Under a new federal law, Failure to Pay Child Support is a felony.

**MR. LONG's** two daughters were 3 and 6 years old, in 1986, when the child support decree was entered in a Georgia State Court. According to the terms of his divorce decree, **MR. LONG** was ordered to pay child support on behalf of his two children. Since that order was entered by the court in 1986, the defendant has failed to pay any support payments except when his tax refunds were intercepted by the court or as a condition of release from jail. In November of 1998, the defendant inherited \$66,000. At that time, the defendant owed \$40,000 in back child support. The custodial parent hired Larry Udall, a local attorney, to attach a lien on the inheritance so that the court would disburse the amount owed for back child support to her before the money was distributed to the defendant. The lien was not filed in a timely manner and the money was disbursed to the defendant. While aware of the back child support he owed, the defendant spent the \$60,000 immediately and did not make any payments to support his children. Although the defendant admitted to an FBI agent that he knew he owed the money but spent it anyway, his defense at trial was that the children failed to secure a lien on the money so they weren't entitled to it. The two daughters are now 17 and 20 and currently reside in Alabama with their mother

(MORE)

The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll from August 2-4 2000. Sentencing is set for October 16, 2000.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecution was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office by the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Child Support Enforcement section. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney, Darcy A. Cerow.

CASE NUMBER: 000462-PHX-EHC  
RELEASE #: 2000-083

# # #